

EXL HQ-4C1 6/3/08

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In the Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

Claims 15-21 (withdrawn)

22. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns having a barrel and a trigger guard in which the handguns are held by the trigger guard comprising:

a tubular assembly comprising: an elongated first structure that functions as a left side wall having an outer surface, an inner surface and a top end; an elongated second structure functions as a right side wall having an outer surface, an inner surface and a top end; an elongated third structure that functions as a front wall having an outer surface, an inner surface and a top end; and a fourth structure that functions as an elongated rear wall having an outer surface, an inner surface and a top end;

said top end of said fourth structure being downwardly displaced from said top end of said first structure and said top end of said second structure to form a recess for capturing a trigger guard of a handgun;

an elongated retention pin having an inner end, an outer end, surrounding side walls extending from said inner end to said outer end and a longitudinally extending X-axis; and

means a support facility operable for supporting said retention pin and reciprocally moving said retention pin into said recess for capturing a trigger guard of a handgun therein and preventing removal therefrom; said ~~means~~ the support facility comprising a sliding actuator having a longitudinally extending Y-axis; said sliding actuator being mechanically interfaced with said retention pin in such a manner as to ~~allow~~ mechanically contact and move said retention pin to cause the pin to be withdrawn from a handgun trigger guard when it is positioned in said recess by pushing said sliding actuator along said Y-axis that is substantially perpendicular to said X-axis of said retention pin.

23. (Previously presented) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 22 wherein said sliding actuator is wedge-shaped.

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24. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 22 further comprising a first spring ~~means~~ element contacting said retention pin and spring loading said retention pin in the direction for capturing a handgun trigger guard when it is positioned in said recess.
25. (Previously presented) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 22 wherein said inner end of said retention pin is beveled toward said top end of said holster.
26. (Previously presented) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 22 wherein said sliding actuator has a tapered fork configuration.
27. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 22 further comprising a first safety lock ~~means~~ that prevents sliding movement of said sliding actuator until said first safety lock ~~means~~ is disengaged.
28. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 27 wherein said first safety lock ~~means~~ comprises a sliding mechanism that must first be moved before said sliding actuator can be pushed.
29. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 27 further comprising a remote ~~means~~ facility operable for releasing said first safety lock means.
30. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 27 wherein said first safety lock ~~means~~ further comprises ~~means~~ an identification facility for identifying the authorized user of said holster.
31. (Previously presented) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 22 further comprising an elongated safety strap having a first end and a second end and both of said ends are pivotally secured to opposite lateral side walls of said holster: said safety strap being pivotal from a first security position which inhibits removal of a handgun from said holster, to a second position substantially free of the handgun thus allowing the handgun to be withdrawn from said holster.

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32. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 31 further comprising ~~means~~ a pivot facility operable for actuating pivotal motion of said safety strap.
33. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 22 further comprising an elongated safety strap having a first end and a second end and both of said ends each having a snap fastener ~~means~~ securing them to opposite sides of said holster to inhibit removal of a handgun from said holster.
34. (Currently amended) A holster for handguns as recited in claim 33 further comprising a formed releasing element shaped to release at least one of said snap fastener ~~means~~ using a generally downward motion of user's hand.
35. (New) A handgun holster comprising:
- a body defining a tubular passage for receiving an elongated handgun portion including a barrel;
 - the body defining a trigger guard space adjacent to the passage for receiving the trigger guard of the handgun;
 - a trigger guard retention element connected to the body;
 - the retention element being slidably operable with respect to the body between a retention position in which it projects into the trigger guard space and a retracted position in which it is retracted from the trigger guard space, such that a handgun received in the holster is retained against extraction forces when the latch element is in the retention position, and a handgun received in the holster is removable from the holster when the retention pin is in the released position;
 - a release actuator connected to the body;
 - the release actuator being movable with respect to the body between an actuated position and a retracted position;
 - the release actuator being mechanically engaged with the retention element and operable to move the retention element to the retracted position when the release actuator is moved to the actuated position; and
 - the release actuator being operable to secure the retention element in the retention position when the release actuator is in the retracted position.

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36. (New) The holster of claim 35 wherein the retention element is biased to the retention position.
37. (New) The holster of claim 35 where in the retention element reciprocates along a first path, and the release actuator reciprocates on a different second path angularly offset from the first path.
38. (New) The holster of claim 37 wherein the first path is perpendicular to the second path.
39. (New) The holster of claim 35 wherein the release actuator contacts the retention element at a cam surface.
40. (New) The holster of claim 35 wherein the release actuator has a wedge portion received between an end portion of the retention element and a surface portion of the body, such that moving the release actuator to the actuated position advances the wedge portion to drive the end portion of the release actuator away from the surface portion of the body.
41. (New) The holster of claim 35 including a safety strap element connected to the body and movable between a closed position in which a selected portion of the safety strap is positioned over an upper end of the passage to cover a rear end portion of a handgun received in the holster, and an open position in which the selected portion is positioned away from the upper end of the passage, such that removal of a handgun in the holster is not obstructed by the selected portion, and wherein the safety strap element is mechanically engaged to the release actuators to secure the release actuator in the retracted position when the safety strap element is in the closed position, and to permit movement of the release actuator to the actuated position when the safety strap element is in the open position.